

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, August 6, 2003, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2nd Floor, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Michael Eckert, JoAnne Kissel, Third World Oforah, Scott Sullivan, and Kim Todd.
(Dennis Scheer and Gordon Scholz absent.)

Others: Mark Canney (Parks and Recreation); Gayle Gerkensmeyer and Tom Leikam (Olsson Associates); Wynn Hjermstad and Ernie Castillo (Urban Development); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

STATED PURPOSE

OF THE MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

Ms. Kissel called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Approval of meeting notes of June 19, 2003 and July 9, 2003

Ms. Todd moved approval of the June 19, 2003 and July 9, 2003 minutes, seconded by Mr. Eckert. Eckert, Kissel, Oforah, Sullivan, and Todd voting 'yes'; Scheer and Scholz absent.

Review of enhancement corridor (paving, landscaping, bike trail) in South Bottoms, 4th Street from A to J Streets (Urban Development)

Wynn Hjermstad explained that in approximately 1998 or 1999, Burlington Northern came to the City and stated that they intended to lay a second mainline track on 3rd Street through the South Salt Creek Neighborhood. They came up with a number of strategies to mitigate the impact of the tracks. The goal was to try to make the neighborhood a better place in spite of the double tracks. The first thing they did was build the pedestrian underpass at 3rd and F Street. The project underway now is the vehicular overpass at 3rd and A Street. Through this process, they were able to get the tracks out of 4th Street; however the 4th Street corridor looks pretty shabby. She stated that they wanted to get the Committee's thoughts on this project.

Tom Leikam noted that the concept is to clean up the corridor. The neighborhood identified that this is a transportation corridor for the internal South Salt Creek Neighborhood, so they are looking at having a roadway and a bike path that would connect from A Street to J Street.

Gayle Gerkensmeyer reviewed the landscape design of the corridor improvements. She noted that some of the enhanced areas will be along the bike trail. There will be berms for visual interest. Along the 3rd and A Street overpass, the roadway light fixtures will be a little more ornamental. There will be neighborhood identification signs in the neighborhood as well. The trail will be 10 feet wide.

Ms. Hjermstad stated that funding is not in place for this project yet, but the next steps are to go back to Public Works and then bring it to the public.

Mr. Sullivan asked how many of the driveways cross the path. Mr. Leikam replied that there are only a few because most of the residences utilize the alleys. They plan to pave the alleys to the right-of-way. They also plan to pave 4th Street. Ms. Kissel questioned if there will be a safety hazard for bikes as they cross the driveways. It was noted that standard bicycle/pedestrian traffic rules will be followed.

Ms. Todd stated that conceptually she feels this is a good idea. She would like to see more trees and a pattern to the tree placement. Mr. Eckert stated that conceptually he likes the idea of off-setting the road so there is a wider area for the trail, and if the trees will not interfere with the sewer, it is better to have them between the road and the trail. He noted that he feels the plan looks good.

Mr. Oforah noted that he has always known this neighborhood to be "South Bottoms" and asked how the signs would be labeled. Ms. Hjermstad clarified that the neighborhood calls themselves "South Salt Creek" and the neighborhood association is South Salt Creek Neighborhood Association and the signs would be labeled as such.

Mr. Sullivan about the style of the lighting fixtures. Mr. Leikam replied that they will work with LES on the lighting fixtures.

Mr. Oforah noted that he likes the concept, but questioned why the trail curves so much. Mr. Zimmer stated that it is a more pleasant experience to have the gentle meander, but you don't feel as if you have been taken out of your way.

Discussion concluded with the Committee's general approval of the project.

Staff report/miscellaneous: Homestead Expressway interchange treatments

Mr. Zimmer stated that the major interchange at Homestead and Apple Parkway is going to have some big walls which will need special treatment, and their hope is that the City will contribute money. He will update the Committee as needed.

Mr. Zimmer also informed the Committee that he had viewed the furniture for the sidewalk café in the old Valentino's building. It is a simple metal style furniture. He will update the Committee as the project proceeds.

Mr. Zimmer informed the Committee that the ordinance on sidewalk cafés will clarify the term "contained." The police are very concerned about crowd control on weekend nights. Mr. Oforah asked what is the importance of being enclosed. Mr. Zimmer stated that the owners are licensed for a particular area, and they are responsible for everything inside that area.

There being no further business, Ms. Kissel adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.